

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,189,028 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 10/031411
DATED : March 13, 2007
INVENTOR(S) : Teresio Signaroldi et al.

Page 1 of 2

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph in column 2, lines 49-56 as follows: should read

The invention of particular relevance to the laying of a relatively rigid pipeline rather than, for example, a pipeline that is so flexible it can be curved into reels for storage. Preferably the resistance of the bearings to resilient displacement is more than 100 kN/m, and more preferably more than 500 kN/m. In an embodiment of the invention described below, the resistance to displacement is of the order of ~~[[500]]~~ 5000 kN/m in the case of certain higher sets of rollers and of the order of 1000 kN/m in the case of certain lower sets of rollers.

Please amend the paragraph in column 3, lines 1- 10 as follows:

As will be appreciated, the amount of bending introduced into the pipeline during its passage through the lower guide arrangement may be small. One purpose of introducing the bend is to enable the horizontal forces between the guide rollers and the pipeline to be distributed evenly between the set of rollers. In an embodiment of the invention described below, the amount of bending of the pipeline is of the order of 0.34 m per 10 m length of pipeline; in that embodiment the total force applied by the lower guide arrangement under normal conditions is about ~~[[100]]~~ 1000 kN.

Please amend claim 16 as follows: Col. 12, Line 60 should read

16. A pipe-laying vessel for J-laying a pipe, the vessel comprising:

an upwardly extending tower assembly defining a path down which a pipe of a pipeline passes as the pipeline is being laid in a J-laying process by the vessel; and

a lower guide arrangement for guiding the pipeline after it has passed down the tower, the lower guide arrangement being substantially trumpet shape, flaring outwardly in the direction of travel of the pipeline during laying, and the lower guide arrangement including a plurality of sets of guide rollers spaced apart along the path of the pipeline and defining the lateral limits of the path, and each of the sets of guide rollers defines a respective set diameter and the set diameters increase nonlinearly in the direction of travel of the pipeline during laying the guide rollers being located such that the pipeline is less vertical as the pipeline passes through the lower guide arrangement than when the pipeline passes through the tower assembly upstream of the lower guide arrangement; and

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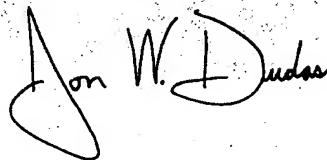
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Please amend claim 16 as follows (cont'd):

means for monitoring forces applied to the pipeline by rollers of the lower guide arrangement.

Signed and Sealed this

Eleventh Day of September, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon W. Dudas". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "Dudas".

JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office